

## Upland Vegetation, Habitat and Wildlife

Large transportation projects such as those being considered under the I-405 corridor study have the potential to directly impact wildlife and vegetation communities by removing, altering, or segmenting key habitats. To make preliminary assessments of these potential impacts, maps can be used to identify habitats that require protection.

### DEIS Maps

Databases from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Natural Heritage Data System (NHDS), and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) were utilized. These data sources report on notable plant or animal species and habitats known or expected to occupy various sites within the study area. Field reconnaissance was also conducted to characterize habitat. This information was presented in the geographic information system (GIS) map: [“Existing Habitat within the Study Area.”](#)

The other map listed under RS/GIS Maps, [“Alternative 3 Projects w/Priority Habitats,”](#) shows Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the priority-habitats map.

### RS/GIS Maps

The RS/GIS version of [“Existing Habitat within the Study Area”](#) is based on the same data as that used for the DEIS map. These species/habitat data were overlain upon layers of forest and water land use. Land use data were in turn identified by automated classification of Landsat-7 imagery based on spectral signatures, supplemented by field verification and validation.

The other map listed under RS/GIS Maps, [“Alternative 3 Projects w/Priority Habitats,”](#) shows Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the priority-habitats map.